working children in hazardous occupations by the year 2002. So far 76 child labour projects have been sanctioned in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal to cover over 1.5 lakh children through special schools where they are provided non-formal education, Vocational training, supplementary nutrition, health care and stipend etc. Apart from this, a massive awareness generation campaign has also been launched against the evil of child labour at national, regional and district level. Funds for district level awareness generation have been released to 133 most child labour endemic districts in this country to sansitize people against the practice of child labour. These measures will be consolidated and expanded in the coming years. During 1994-95, the expenditure incurred on the programme was Rs.34.00 crores (Approximately). The allocations for various child labour related programmes for 1996-97 is Rs.56.00 crores.

(c) While the State-wise details regarding the number of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations and put in special schools are not available, it is estimated that about 1.00 lakh children have been withdrawn from hazardous occupations and are presently in schools.

Mansarovar Pilgrimage

2815. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide financial assistance to the pilgrims visiting Mansarovar situated in China on the pattern of assistance being provided to Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). The charges payable by a pilgrim going on Kailas Mansarovar Yatra, in 1996, include a payment of US $ 500 to the Chinese authorities and Rs.8,250 to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN). For the Yatra during 1996, the Government decided to peg the amount payable to KMVN by the prilgrim at Rs. 5,000 per pilgrim; Government would bear the rest i.e. Rs. 3,250 per pilgrim.

In addition, Government bears the expenses for facilities provided to the pilgrims which includes medical assistance, security and escort cover through ITBP and UP State police, communication links between Delhi and places enroute on the Indian side and with China, aerial aviation of pilgrims in case of emergencies, cost of publication of advertisements and partial cost of creation of infrastructure of logistics and facilities on the Indian side.

Schemes for Ex-Servicemen

2816. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the schemes being run for the welfare and rehabilitation of the Ex-Servicemen and the dependents of the deceased soldiers in the Tribal, rural backward and plateau regions in Bihar;

(b) the year-wise amount spent on the welfare and rehabilitation of the Ex-servicemen/dependents of deceased soldiers during the last three years; and

(c) the number of persons benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N.SOMU) : (a) to (c). Important Resettlement and Welfare schemes fro Ex-Servicemen implemented in various States including the State of Bihar are as under :-

Resettlement Schemes

(i) Central Government have reserved 10 per cent of Group 'C' posts and 20 per cent Group 'D' posts for ex-Servicemen. 10 per cent posts of Assistant Commandants in Para Military Forces are also reserved for ex-Servicemen. Central Public Sector Undertakings and Nationalised Banks provide 14.5 per cent reservation in Group 'C' and 24.5 per cent in Group 'D' posts to ex-Servicemen.

(ii) Loans/Financial Assistance for setting up small scale industries, Service industries, Agro-Based industries, Khadi & Village industries are provided to ex-Servicemen under three self-employment schemes known as SEMFEX-I, SEMFEX-II, and SEMFEX-III.

(iii) Government have reserved 7.5% of the Oil product agencies i.e., LPG Kerosene Oil agencies and Petrol Pumps for widows/ dependents of posthumous gallantry award winners, war widows, war disabled and for disabled personnel during peace time with disability of 50% and above.

(iv) A Scheme to raise ex-servicemen coal transport companies is also in operation in the state of Bihar.

Welfare Schemes

(i) Ex-Servicemen are provided free medical treatment in the Military Hospitals.

(ii) Ex-Servicemen suffering from serious diseases are given financial assistance equal to 60% of the total expenditure, for treatment in civil hospitals in case they cannot be treated in